

## William Dickson to Andrew Jackson, January 8, 1804, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### WILLIAM DICKSON TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 8, 1804.

*Dear Sir* , I recd. yours of last week, and believe no doubt is now entertained but that the communications from the Governor of Tennessee to the Secretary of War will receive just as much attention as they are justly entitled to and no more. I allude to the charges against D. Vandyke.

The Bills for extending our revenue laws to the District of New Orleans and for establishing a temporary government for Louisiana are yet under consideration. No doubt but they would have been disposed of before now had not measures for keeping pure that important branch of our government, the Judiciary been suggested as requiring the attention of Congress. John Pickering District Judge of New Hampshire is impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors, but his impeachment is a mere comic scene compared to certain more hardy offenders.

After several days debate in this house in which much heat and party rancour was exhibited the house have appointed a committee to enquire into the official conduct of Saml. Chase one of associate Justices of the Supreme court and Richard Peters District Judge of Pennsylvania. this enquiry has been instituted in consequence of certain allegations made by a member of this house, Mr Smilie relative to their irregular conduct in a trial under the sedition law in which John Fries was condemned to death. tho' justice has long been dormant, she has not intirely given up her reign, and no doubt exists but

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due enquiry will be made and if those men are innocent of the charges against them which have been made thro the medium of our public prints, to all parts of the Union, in gods name let the suspicion be done away which now inclosses their characters and casts an odium and indignity on the Judiciary of the United States, but Sir, I apprehend these charges are founded in a presumption of Guilt too strong to be wiped away.

Accept my respect